



Week 8

CONNECT

1. Describe a momentous victory you've seen, maybe in sports or in a person's career, etc.
 2. What would you consider your greatest personal victory?
 3. What is a time when you had a goal or vision but faced a tremendous obstacle?
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TRUTH

Read 1 John 5:1-12

Living triumphantly is part of being a Christian. In our life, even though we are called to fight against what culture tells us, it shouldn't be a losing battle. We are called to live and act differently than the rest of the world. While living in that way may be a struggle, we should expect victory. In this passage John describes the resistance we can expect to face and what victory over that resistance looks like.

Children Of God Love & Obey

*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.
(1 John 5:2)*

John reiterates those who are disciples of Christ are also sons and daughters of God and that we should love other children of God. We are shown the self-sacrificial love we should have for others in the love Christ showed for us. Understanding we are children of God is critical because even though Jesus' standard for how to live is too high for us to achieve in our own strength, being born of God gives us the ability to meet that standard.

- ▶ How do you think modern Westerners react and feel when they hear the word "commandments"?

Children Of God Triumph

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (1 John 5:4)

John is calling us to a new way of life where we succeed in obeying the commands of God. However, in order to do that we have to overcome the world. The world is all the powers opposed to God which make obedience difficult. We oppose the world because it attempts to keep us from obeying the Jesus, the son of God who triumphs. In John's view, that's what true victory looks like for a Christian.

- ▶ What do you think would happen in society if all Christians started living triumphantly?

Children Of God Believe The Testimony

This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. (1 John 5:6-8)

Jesus died on the cross and rose again and now is ruling and reigning. We have testimony of that through both eye witness accounts and the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. We must realize that Jesus is king and his kingdom lasts forever. When we experience resistance from worldly kingdoms, we can endure because those kingdoms are temporary.

- ▶ Why do you think we sometimes don't live like Jesus is reigning?

GRACE

The greatest triumph in history was the triumph of Jesus over sin and death. The amazing thing about Jesus dying on the cross was that it didn't end there. Jesus rose again from the grave proving that when he died on the cross it was as a payment for our sins, not just because he was some criminal. Jesus lived a life of perfection, never giving in to sin, and then he conquered death, rising from the grave. He now gives his resurrection life to the children of God.

CHANGE

- ▶ Which of God's commandments do you view as burdensome? How does John's teaching change your thinking about them?
- ▶ What commandments of God are you not keeping?
- ▶ In what ways does Jesus's reign give you courage to keep God's commandments when it's difficult?

Pray for each other to have strength to resist the world and to remember that Jesus is King.